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AMERICAN FARM ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION.

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EXTENSION WORK— NOVEMBER, 1919.

The Committee sent out three queries:

The following question was sent to Directors of Extension, State Leaders of County Agents, Presidents of Farm Bureau Federations, Farm Management Specialists and Demonstrators:

How can the Farm Management Specialist or Demonstrator most effectively help the Farm Bureaus or County Agricultural Organizations in developing a profitable and self-sustaining agriculture?

A total of seventy-five replies representing sixty percent of the parties addressed were received.

Most of the replies were so composite that no attempt has been made to present a detailed tabular analysis of them. They suggest a wide field of activity through which the specialist or demonstrator can be of assistance to the Farm Bureaus or County Organizations.

The suggested activities are as follows:

1. The preparation and publication of bulletins, circulars and press material.
2. The preparation and presentation of farm management exhibit material at county fairs.
3. Work in the public schools.
4. Carrying information to the bureaus from the research department.
5. Aiding in the development of the bureau and community program of work.
6. Collecting data by records and surveys.
7. Establishing demonstration farms.
8. Establishing adequate accounting systems on farms.
9. Teaching county agents the fundamental principles and viewpoints on farm management.
10. Assisting other subject matter specialists in correlating their work with the bureaus and the farms by giving them the farm management viewpoint.

Every one of these activities is being carried out in some part of the field and in many sections several or all of them.

Thirty farm management specialists and demonstrators replied to the following question:

How can the college department of farm management and the United States Office of Farm Management be most helpful to the farm management specialist or demonstrator?

The leading thought in two thirds of the replies to this question are expressed in the following quotations:

I do not believe there is a farm management extension man in the country who is not more or less handicapped by the lack of adequate investigations pertaining to his particular region.

The college or the United States Office of Farm Management, therefore, should obtain information and make the results of such investigation available for use as rapidly as facts can be established, giving special attention to the adaptability of such material.

Some other methods of rendering help mentioned were:

Furnishing charts, lantern slides and illustrative material when needed.

By assisting the demonstrator in the summary and analysis of account books collected from farmers.

By correlating college work of students with extension activities reaching their home farms.

By advising regarding methods of work with farmers.

By furnishing survey or other assistance when needed.

By furnishing the necessary money and advice so that the work may be carried on in a somewhat larger way than is being done at present.

To the farm management extension specialists and demonstrators the following question was also sent:

In what way can the farm management specialist or demonstrator aid the administrators of the Smith-Hughes act in developing their program along sound farm management lines?

The ideas of a large number of the men are well expressed in the following quotation from one of the replies:

The new field of vocational agriculture would seem to offer the best opportunity so far presented to bring home the problem of farm management to the people. Most of the men engaged as teachers for this kind of work are well trained in vocational agriculture and thus have more or less of the farm management viewpoint. In talking with many of these men they have expressed their wish to have a farm management course in the vocational work, as it appears to them to be one of the essentials in binding together the other agricultural subjects that would be given. In other words, a course in farm management is the business end of the subject and all such teachers agree that such business knowledge is one of the requirements to successful farming, whether this knowledge is received in the school room or by "hard knocks" on the farm.

Such being the situation the vocational school offers the farm management specialists a wide field and they can best coöperate with such schools by assisting them in outlining their courses and assisting in rural survey work that they may wish to undertake, and generally assisting in the presentation of the subject of farm management to the students of the schools in a manner that will be both interesting and profitable.

C. L. GOODRICH,
Chairman Committee on Extension.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EXPERIMENT STATION FUNDS AND
WORK. NOVEMBER, 1919.

The widespread interest in economic problems as affecting the farm has resulted in a desire upon the part of the experiment stations to extend their investigations and include this important field.

Various persons with whom the matter of funds have been discussed have assured the committee of their interest and assistance. It is recognized that the experiment stations must have additional funds before they may undertake new investigations and that additional funds may be best secured through federal sources with the possibility of requiring states to offset the added funds—dollar for dollar.

Two proposals have been considered, viz.:

- (a) The introduction of an appropriation act for moneys to be used by stations in farm management and economic studies.
- (b) That the Hatch Act be amended to provide adequate funds so that it may include farm management, agricultural economics, home and rural education investigations.

The committee favors the latter method and recommends that: The Congress shall be called upon to increase the appropriation to states by amending the Hatch Act to include an adequate sum to be offset—dollar for dollar—by the states for the purpose of continuing and enlarging important studies now in progress and to extend the field of research to include the problems of farm management, marketing, agricultural economics, and home and rural education.

The committee further recommends that a committee on experiment funds and work shall be appointed to confer with committees of such other subjects as may be appointed for the introduction of an appropriation act at such time as seems feasible.

T. P. COOPER,
Chairman.